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	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	10/761,172	KITCH, GERALD C.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Andrea M. Valenti	3643
The MAILING DATE of this communication at All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOLNOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATEN of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1	S IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in -85) or other appropriate commu T RIGHTS. This application is s	this application. If not included nication will be mailed in due course. THIS
1. \boxtimes This communication is responsive to <u>30 September 20</u>	<u>004</u> .	
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 3-7.		
3. \boxtimes The drawings filed on <u>20 January 2004</u> are accepted b	y the Examiner.	<u> </u>
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priorit a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the: 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents it.		or (f).
2. Certified copies of the priority documents i		n No
Copies of the certified copies of the priority	y documents have been received	I in this national stage application from the
International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).	•	
* Certified copies not received:		
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DA noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDO THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.		a reply complying with the requirements
5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be si INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which	ubmitted. Note the attached EXA gives reason(s) why the oath or	MINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets")	must be submitted.	
(a) \square including changes required by the Notice of Drafts	person's Patent Drawing Review	v (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date		
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Exami Paper No./Mail Date	ner's Amendment / Comment or	in the Office action of
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 Cleach sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such	FR 1.84(c)) should be written on th i in the header according to 37 CF	e drawings in the front (not the back) of R 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the d attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREME	eposit of BIOLOGICAL MATE ENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIO	ERIAL must be submitted. Note the DLOGICAL MATERIAL.
Attachment(s) 1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	5. ☐ Notice of Inf	formal Patent Application (PTO-152)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-9	48) 6. ☐ Interview St	ummary (PTO-413),
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/	Paper No./	Mail Date : Amendment/Comment
Paper No./Mail Date 4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Depo	sit 8. 🛭 Examiner's	Statement of Reasons for Allowance
of Biological Material	9. Other	<u>.</u> -

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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David Carter on 30 November 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1, line 5, 'attached to' was changed to --integral and continuous with--

Claim 1, line 6, 'attached to' was changed to --integral and continuous with--

Claim 1, line 7, 'at least one slot in said bottom' was changed to --at least one slot in the surface of said bottom--

Claim 1, line 8 and 9, 'said locking tab received in said slot;' was changed to --said locking tab extending around said second edge of said bottom and received in said slot;--

Claim 1, line 10, 'first and second end walls;' was changed to --first and second triangular end walls;--

Claim 1, line 11, 'attached to' was changed to --integral and continuous with--

Claim 1, line 12, 'attached to' was changed to --integral and continuous with--

Claim 1, line 15, 'attached to' was changed to --integral and continuous with--

Claim 1, line 16, 'attached to' was changed to --integral and continuous with—

Claim 6, line 2, 'said fourth edge' was changed to --said second edge--

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Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 and 3-7 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Cited references U.S. Patent No. 4,792,082; U.S. Patent No. 4,391,223; U.S. Patent No. 5,738,477U.S. Patent No. 4,803,952; U.S. Patent No. 6,662,947; U.S. Patent No. 4,607,784; U.S. Patent No. 1,889,985; U.S. Patent No. 5,184,436; U.S. Patent No. 2,364,836; U.S. Patent Pub. US 2004/0084513; U.S. Patent No. 3,184,146; U.S. Patent No. 3,891,136; U.S. Patent Des. 224,684; French Patent FR 2618050 teach pet houses being foldable from a collapsed state for shipping and storage to an erect state substantially formed from a unitary blank of material with a bottom; said bottom having first, second, third and fourth edges, first and second side walls integral and continuous with one another forming an apex at the top of said house; said first side wall integral and continuous with said first edge of said bottom; first and second triangular end walls; said first end wall having an opening therein to permit the pet to enter and exit said house, said first end wall integral and continuous to said third edge of said bottom; said second end wall integral and continuous with said fourth edge of said bottom; first and second extensions integral and continuous with said first end wall and third and fourth extensions integral and continuous with said second end wall; said first and third extensions being fastened to said first side wall: said second and fourth extensions being fastened to said second side wall.

The prior art of record all fails to show, and fails to make obvious, either alone and/or in combination at least one slot in the surface of said bottom near said second

edge; at least one locking tab extending from said second side wall; said locking tab extending around said second edge of said bottom and received in said slot; and a a means for attaching said first end wall to said first and second side walls; a means for attaching said second end wall to said first and second side walls. Examiner has identified the statement of "a means for attaching said first end wall to said first and second side walls; a means for attaching said second end wall to said first and second side walls; a means for attaching said second end wall to said first and second side walls" as a means plus function statement that is defined on page 1 of applicant's specification under Summary of Invention as "preferably by means of aligned holes and locking clips."

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrea M. Valenti whose telephone number is 703-305-3010. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am-5pm M-F; Alternating Fridays Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter M. Poon can be reached on 703-308-2574. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Andrea M. Valenti
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3643

30 November 2004

Peter M. Poon

Supervisory Patent Examiner Technology Center 3600